

Solo Leveling

Art · DUBU (REDICE STUDIO)

Original Novel · Chugong

Story · h-goon

169

...WHAT
A GATHERING.

HAA...

PRESIDENTS,
PRIME MINISTERS,
GUILD MASTERS, AND
EVEN THE CHAIRMAN
OF THE HUNTER'S
ASSOCIATION...




EVERYONE MUST
BE FEELING THE
PRESSURE.



IT'D BE GREAT IF HE
COULD TELL EVERYONE
THAT ALL WILL END WELL
LIKE LAST TIME.



BUT IF HE
WERE TO SAY
THE COMPLETE
OPPOSITE...



THIS WILL BE
A DIFFICULT TIME
FOR ALL OF US.



THIS ISN'T A
FIGHT THAT CAN
BE IGNORED BY
ANYONE.

THEY'LL APPEAR
BEFORE YOU AND
REGRET EVERYTHING

DESTROY EVERYTHING
IN SIGHT.

Y, YOU REALLY
EXPECT US TO
BELIEVE THAT?

SURELY THE
NATIONAL LEVEL
HUNTERS CAN
STOP THEM!

THERE WILL BE
HUNDREDS OF BEASTS THAT
ARE STRONGER THAN KAMISH,
THE DRAGON THAT BROUGHT
THE GREATEST DISASTER IN
THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.

SO NO. NOT
EVEN THE NATIONAL
LEVEL HUNTERS WILL
BE ABLE TO STOP
THEM.



SH, SHOW
US SOME PROOF!



WE WON'T
BELIEVE A THING
UNTIL YOU DO!

HUNDREDS OF
BEASTS AS STRONG
AS KAMISH, YOU
SAY?

YOU MUST BE
OUT OF YOUR
MIND!







H, HOW IS THIS
POSSIBLE...?

STIR




AREN'T THOSE
ALL GATES?


MURMUR



SUNG JINWOO
CAN CREATE
GATES...?




AND NOT JUST
ONE, BUT MULTIPLE
AT THE SAME
TIME...?




THE ENEMY CAN
CREATE GATES WHENEVER
AND WHEREVER THEY WANT,
JUST LIKE ME.

IT'S JUST TAKING
THEM A WHILE BECAUSE
OF THE IMMENSE SIZE
OF THEIR ARMY.




BUT MR. SUNG!
HOW CAN WE BE
SURE YOU'RE NOT
ON THEIR SIDE?!




HOW DO WE
KNOW YOU DIDN'T
SUMMON THE
SOLDIERS FROM
THE FIRST GATE...

...IN ORDER TO KILL US?!



OH, BUT... THAT'S
NOT TO SAY YOU
DON'T HAVE MY FULL
TRUST, OF COURSE.



ALL RIGHT.
WE KNOW WHAT
KIND OF BEASTS TO
EXPECT FROM THE
GATES NOW.

SO WHAT SHOULD
WE DO ABOUT THIS
PROBLEM?



YOU SHOULD
RUN AWAY.

PLEASE GET AS
FAR AWAY FROM
THE GATES AS
YOU CAN.



JINWOO'S
WARNING CREATED
A MASSIVE RIPPLE
EFFECT.

"RUN AWAY!"

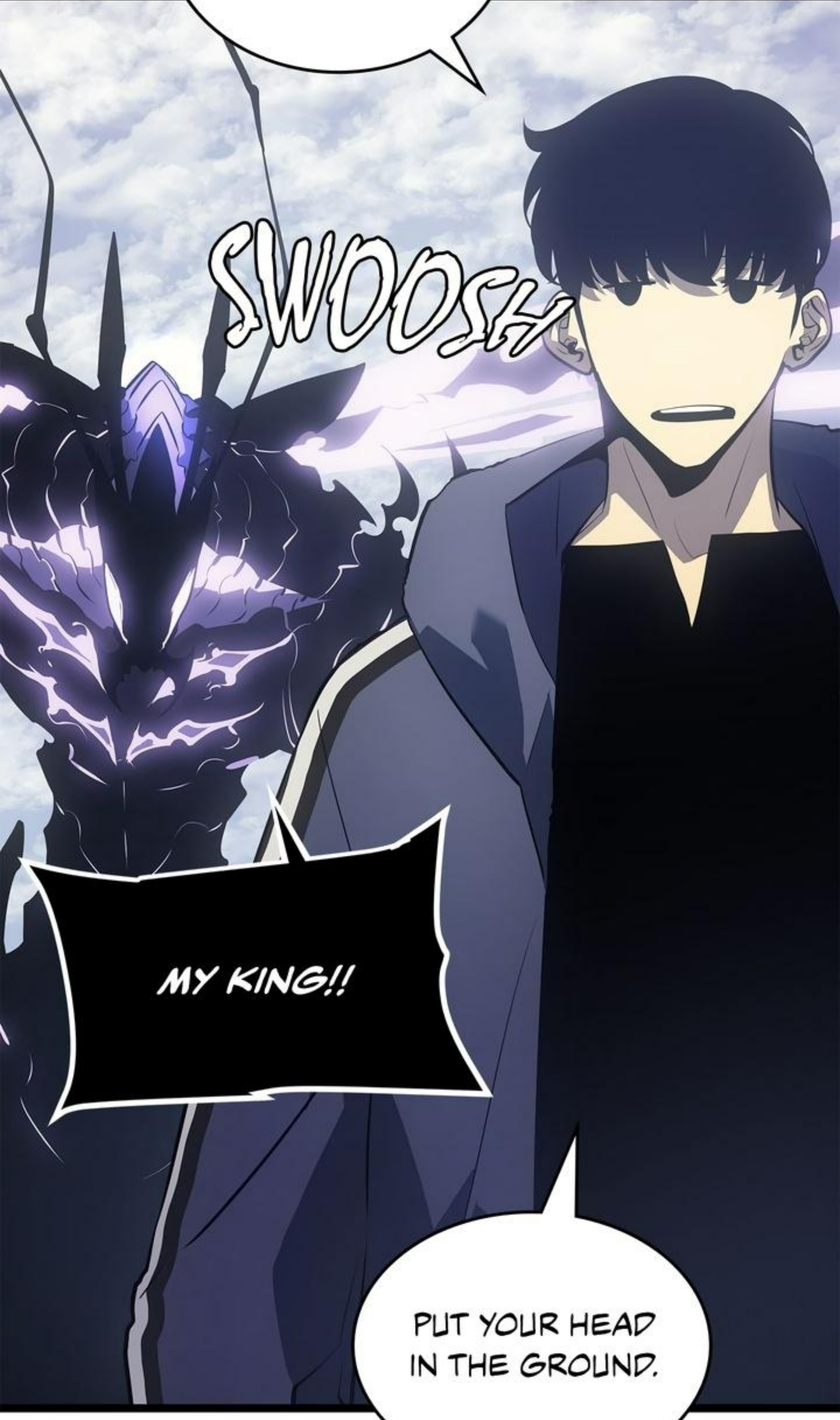
AFTER HEARING
THAT HUMANITY WOULD
NOT BE ABLE TO HANDLE
THE SHEER NUMBER OF
BEASTS,

EVERYONE GOT SCARED
AND SCRAMBLED TO GET
AS FAR AWAY FROM THE
GATES AS POSSIBLE.





GET OVER
HERE, BERU.



SWOOSH

MY KING!!

PUT YOUR HEAD
IN THE GROUND.

YOU CALL THIS
A "SMALL HOUSE"?

NEVER MIND
THE SIZE. CAN THIS
EVEN BE CALLED
A HOUSE?



I THOUGHT
WE SHOULD AT
LEAST PREPARE THIS
MUCH FOR YOU,
MY KING...

AND WHY THE
HELL DID YOU PUT
UP THAT FLAG?





OH... SO THAT
WAS YOUR IDEA,
HUH?

BELLION. WHAT
HAPPENS TO AN
ARMY THAT LOSES
THEIR MONARCH?

SINCE YOU'RE THE
GRAND MARSHAL,
WOULD YOU TAKE
OVER IF I DIED?

OUR LIVES ARE
IN YOUR HANDS,
MY KING.

IF YOU WERE TO
PASS, WE TOO
WOULD RETURN TO
NOTHINGNESS.




THE GREATEST
STRENGTH OF
THE SHADOW
ARMY...

...IS THEIR LOYALTY,
WHICH MAKES THEM PUT
THEIR MASTER'S ORDERS
BEFORE THEIR OWN LIVES.

BUT THEIR
STRENGTHS AND
WEAKNESSES ARE
LIKE TWO SIDES OF
THE SAME COIN.


AND THE ENEMY WILL
DEFINITELY TRY TO
USE THAT TO THEIR
ADVANTAGE.

WE WON'T STAND A
CHANCE IN AN ALL-OUT
WAR, MY KING.



HOW MANY
MORE TROOPS DO
YOU THINK THEY'LL
HAVE?

I EXPECT
THEIR NUMBERS TO BE
MORE THAN A HUNDRED
TIMES GREATER.



SO THAT MEANS
THEY'LL HAVE AT
LEAST 10 MILLION
SOLDIERS...

"BULLSH*T."

THAT'S WHAT
I'D SAY TO SUNG
JINWOO IF I COULD
CALL HIM UP RIGHT
NOW.

CANADIAN
S-RANK HUNTER
JAY MILLS

EVEN SO,
MR. SUNG IS ONE
OF THE STRONGEST
HUNTERS IN THE
WORLD.

I DON'T THINK WE
CAN JUST IGNORE
HIS WARNING...

JUST BECAUSE
HE'S A SKILLED HUNTER
DOESN'T MEAN WE
SHOULD BELIEVE
EVERYTHING THAT COMES
OUT OF HIS MOUTH.

**SUNG JINWOO. NO MATTER
WHAT SORT OF NONSENSE
YOU TRY TO SCARE US
WITH, YOU WON'T GET ALL
THE GATES TO YOURSELF.**

**YOU HAVEN'T
SCARED ME
ONE BIT.**

BEEP


THE HUNTERS
IN CANADA HAVE
STARTED RALLYING
AROUND JAY MILLS.

IN ADDITION, SOME NATIONS
THAT ARE KNOWN TO HAVE
STRONG HUNTERS, LIKE INDIA,
ALSO SEEM TO BE PREPARING
FOR THEIR OWN RAIDS.


WHAT ARE YOU
GOING TO DO NOW,
MR. SUNG?

FOR
STARTERS,


I'M GOING
TO CHINA.



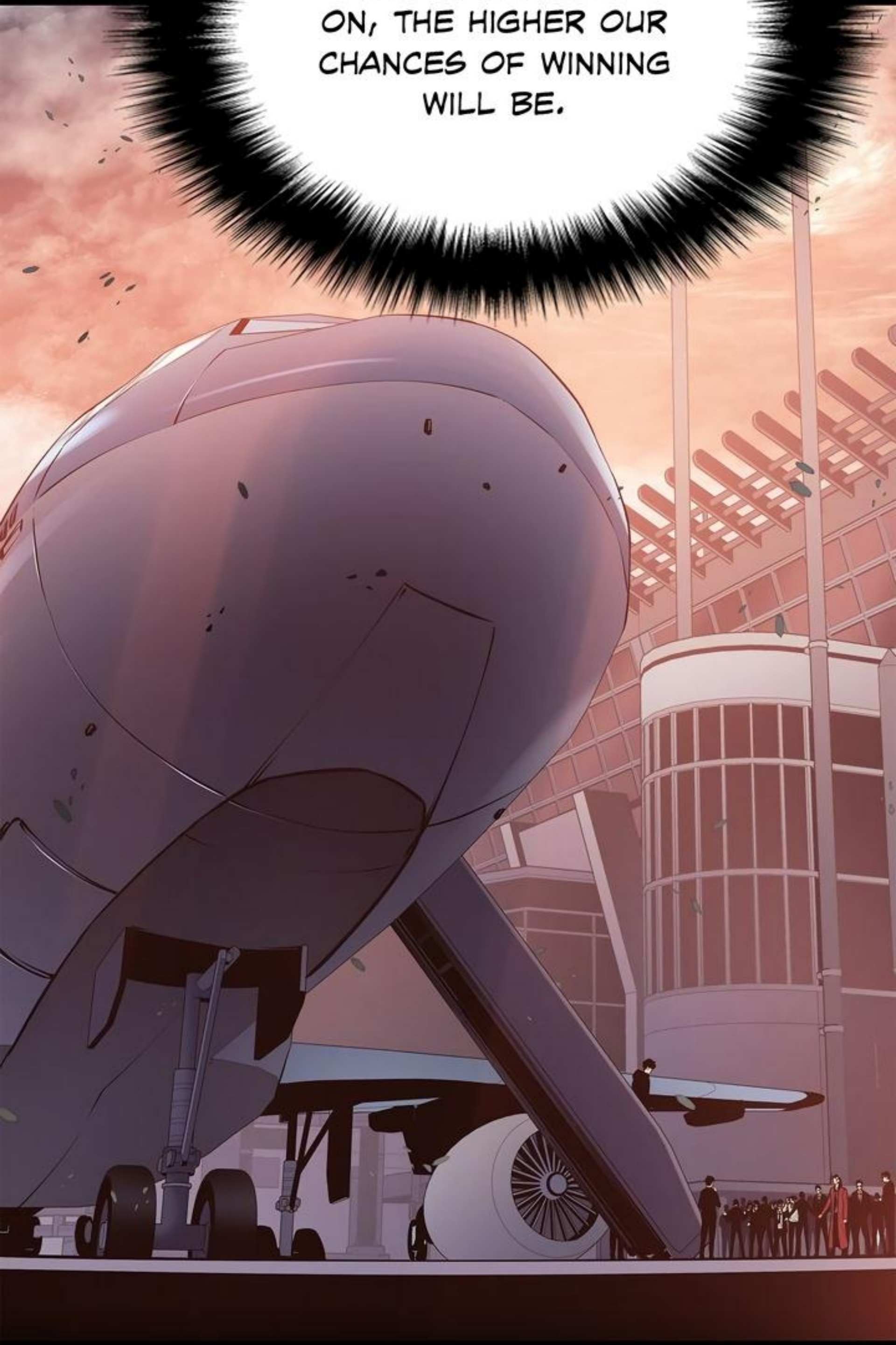
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE
FOR ME TO FACE
ALL EIGHT ARMIES
AT ONCE.



SO I HAVE TO GET
RID OF THE CLOSEST
THREAT TO KOREA FIRST,
IN ORDER TO PROTECT
MY FAMILY.



I'LL DEAL
WITH THE OTHER
MONARCHS AFTER
THAT.



THE LONGER
THIS WAR DRAGS
ON, THE HIGHER OUR
CHANCES OF WINNING
WILL BE.



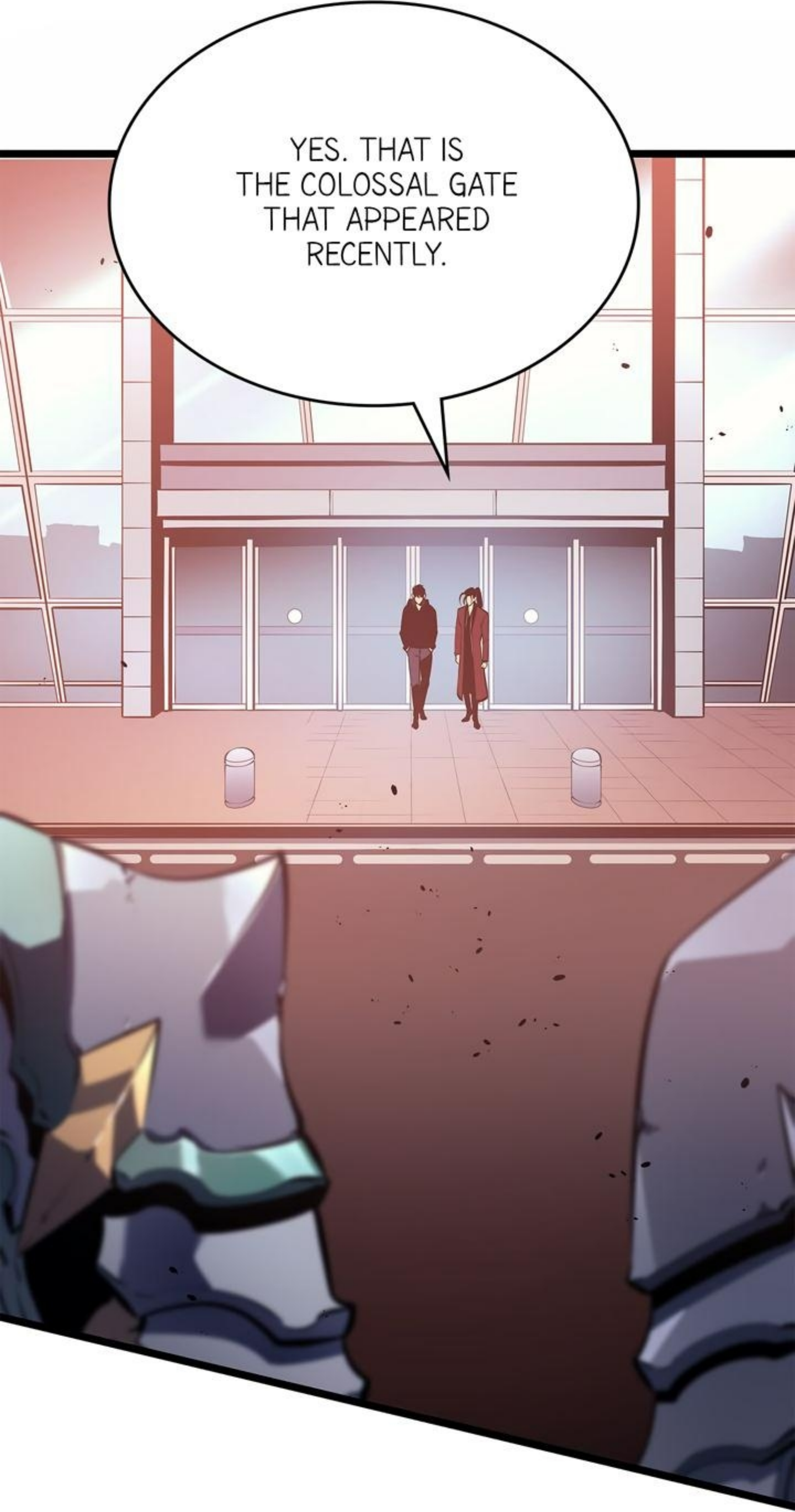
I WAS TOLD THAT THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WOULD COME TO GREET ME, BUT I WASN'T EXPECTING TO SEE YOU HERE, MR. LIU ZHIGANG.

I SAW THEM MAKING RIDICULOUS PLACARDS, SO I DECIDED TO COME ESCORT YOU MYSELF.



THIS WAY.

SO YOU CAN EVEN SEE IT FROM THE AIRPORT.



YES. THAT IS
THE COLOSSAL GATE
THAT APPEARED
RECENTLY.



AND THESE
ARE...




...100,000 OF
CHINA'S STRONGEST
HUNTERS.



100,000?
WITH THIS MANY
HUNTERS, WE JUST
MIGHT STAND A
CHANCE...

This panel shows two men in profile, facing each other. The man on the left has dark hair and is wearing a dark blue jacket. The man on the right has dark hair and is wearing a red jacket with a brown collar. They are standing in front of a red, textured background.



NOT ONLY DO WE
HAVE THE NUMBERS,
BUT THEY'RE ALL ELITE
HUNTERS WHO ARE
HIGHLY SKILLED.

This panel shows the same two men from the previous panel, now facing each other. The man on the left is wearing a dark blue jacket and the man on the right is wearing a red jacket with a brown collar. They are standing in front of a red, textured background.



LOOKS LIKE
THINGS ARE ABOUT
TO BEGIN.

This panel shows the same two men from the previous panels, now facing each other. The man on the left is wearing a dark blue jacket and the man on the right is wearing a red jacket with a brown collar. They are standing in front of a red, textured background.



COME
FORTH.

This panel shows the same two men from the previous panels, now facing each other. The man on the left is wearing a dark blue jacket and the man on the right is wearing a red jacket with a brown collar. They are standing in front of a red, textured background.





TH, THIS IS ON
A WHOLE OTHER
LEVEL.

WE'RE GOING TO BE
ATTACKED BY AN
ARMY OF BEASTS
LIKE THAT? HERE?

NO WAY...

ARE THEY ALL
YOUR BEASTS,
MR. SUNG?

THE SPOT TO
THE KING'S LEFT
IS MINE! HOW
DARE YOU STAND
THERE?!

RELAX. HE'S
ON OUR SIDE.

SO YOU'RE ABLE
TO COMMUNICATE
WITH THEM AS
WELL...?

IT, IT'S
OPENING!!

SHATTER



AND SO
IT BEGINS.



HOW STRANGE.

I DON'T SENSE
ANYONE'S
PRESENCE.

WHAT?

COULD IT
BE...?!

WHAT ABOUT
THE OTHER
GATES?

BASED ON WHAT
I'M HEARING FROM
THE OTHER SOLDIERS,
THE SITUATION IS THE
SAME EVERYWHERE
ELSE.

DOES THAT MEAN
ALL OF THE GATES
ARE EMPTY?



WAIT...
I WAS WRONG.



I THOUGHT
THE MONARCHS SPLIT UP
THEIR ARMIES TO SEND
THROUGH THE GATES
THEY SCATTERED ACROSS
THE GLOBE...



...BUT THEY MUST'VE
SENT ALL THEIR FORCES
TO THE GATE FURTHEST
AWAY FROM ME!





TO THINK
EVERYONE'S
BETTING ALL THEIR
CHIPS ON SUNG
JINWOO...


[Sung Jinwoo Heads to China!]

"Japan and Russia have also
decided to support Sung Jinwoo..."

"The hunters will board
a plane and set off for
battle this afternoon..."

"Meanwhile, the white structures
discovered in the flooded
regions of Japan were found to
be unrelated to the gates..."

"Only five hours left until the
dungeon break. Will Sung Jinwoo's
warning become a reality?"



WE STOOD OUR
GROUND WHEN
EVERYONE ELSE WAS
LOOKING TO SUNG
JINWOO FOR HELP.

WE WILL NOT GIVE
UP ON CANADA!

We won't
run away!

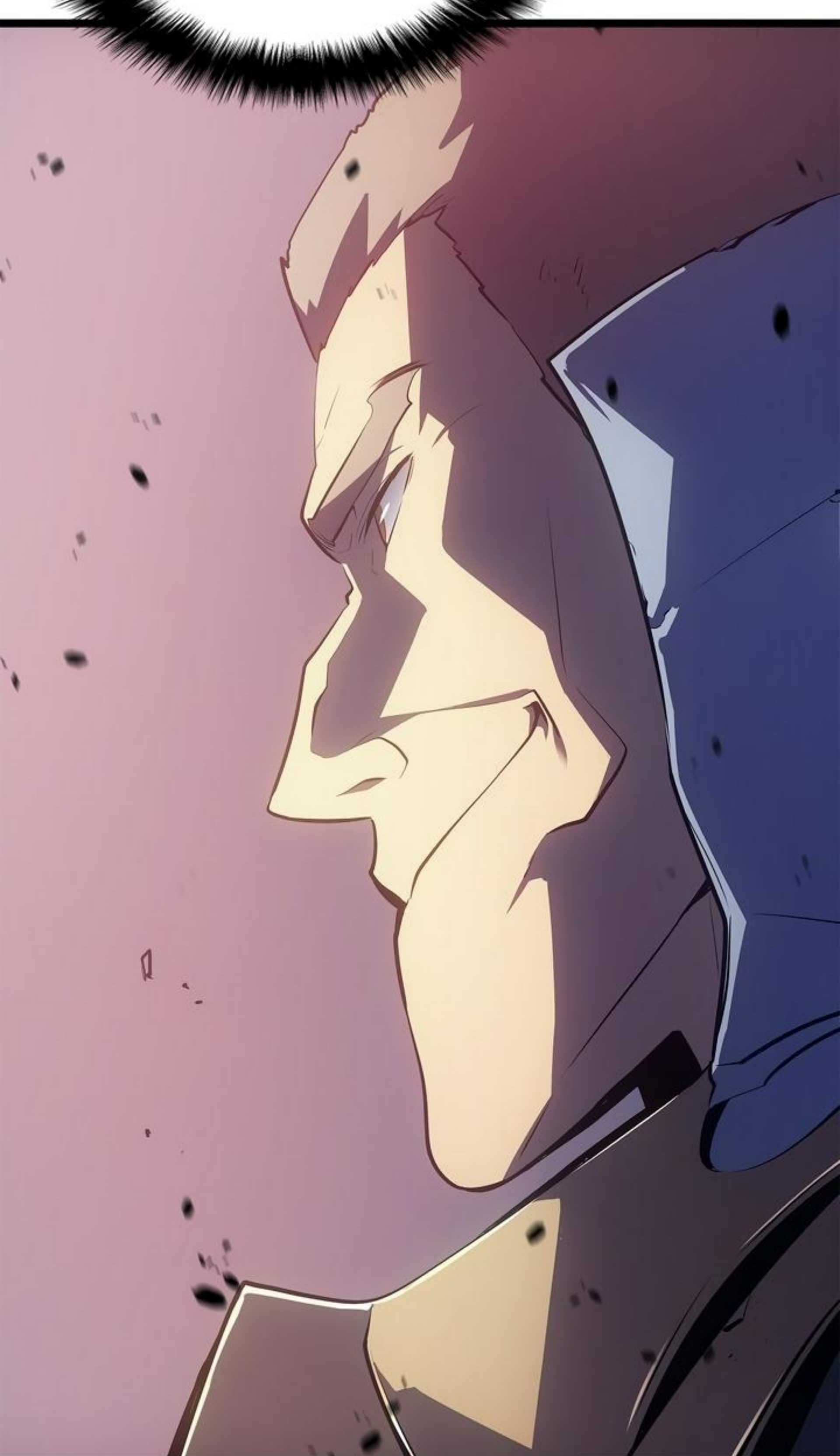
OUR HUNTERS
WILL PROTECT US
AND THIS LAND!

WE'LL WIN NO
MATTER WHAT
KIND OF BEASTS
COME OUT OF
THAT GATE!

SWATTER



ALL RIGHT.
HERE WE GO!



...



WHAT THE
HECK?

DIDN'T SUNG JINWOO
SAY BEASTS WOULD
COME POURING OUT
OF THE GATES?

WAS HE
JUST BLUFFING?



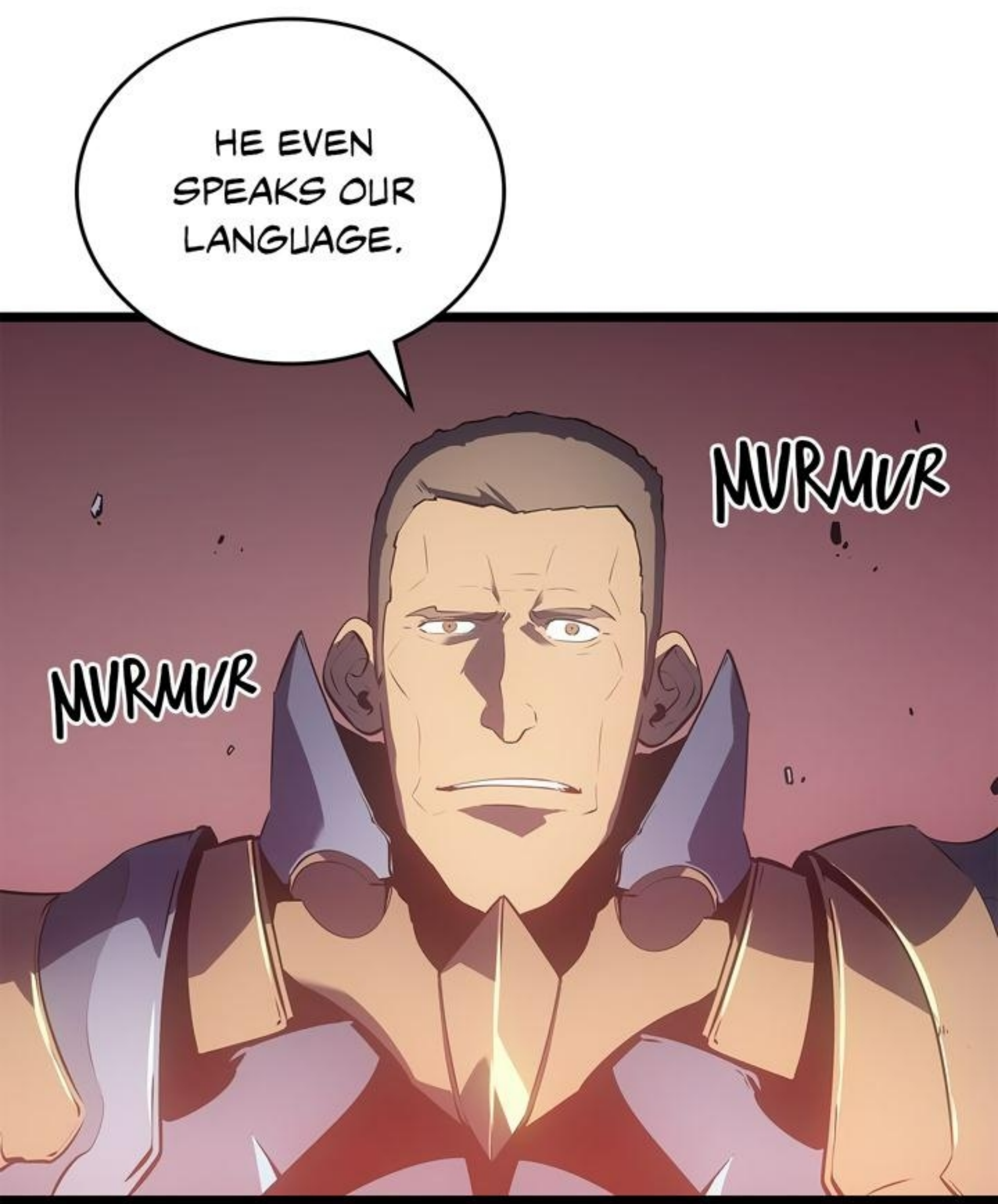
I ONLY SEE
ONE BEAST.



WAIT.

ISN'T THAT
JUST A HUMAN?
WHAT THE HELL?







THAT'S NOT
SURPRISING.

BEASTS ARE
CAPABLE OF MAKING THEIR
OWN ARMOR, USING THE
RUNIC ALPHABET, AND
ESTABLISHING SOCIETIES
BASED ON CLASS SYSTEMS.

IN OTHER WORDS,
THEY CAN BE JUST
AS INTELLIGENT AS
HUMANS.

THEY SIMPLY
DIDN'T TRY TO
COMMUNICATE WITH
US UNTIL NOW.

SO A BEAST
LEARNING A HUMAN
LANGUAGE TO
TALK TO US ISN'T
STRANGE AT ALL.

SO BEASTS AND
HUMANS CAN
COMMUNICATE WITH
EACH OTHER...?

HA, OF COURSE!
I KNEW IT!!

SO THIS IS
HOW SUNG JINWOO
WAS ABLE TO RECRUIT
THE SOLDIERS FROM
THE FIRST GATE.

HE MUST'VE
COMMUNICATED
WITH THEM
LIKE THIS.

WILL THIS BEAST
START OBEYING MY
ORDERS IF I SAY I'M
THE KING? IS THAT
HOW THIS WORKS?

AND WHAT
IF I AM THE
KING?




LOOKS LIKE
HE'S NOT HERE.





IS THERE NO WAY
TO CHECK WHAT'S
GOING ON IN
CANADA?

JUST A MOMENT,
MR. SUNG.



OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
I CAN CONTACT ADAM
WHITE FROM THE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF
HUNTERS...!

YES,
MR. SUNG!

ADAM. CAN YOU TELL
ME WHAT'S HAPPENING
WITH THE COLOSSAL
GATE IN CANA-



**WAIT... WHERE
ARE YOU RIGHT
NOW?**



**I'M NEAR CANADA'S
COLOSSAL GATE WITH
THE OTHER AGENTS.
WE'RE HERE TO
PROVIDE BACKUP.**

**WHY THE HELL ARE
YOU OVER THERE?!**



AS A NEIGHBORING
COUNTRY, WE COULDN'T
JUST STAND BY AND
WATCH THINGS GO
DOWN IN CANADA...

MANY OTHER AGENTS
FROM THE BUREAU WERE
DISPATCHED HERE
AS WELL.



DAMN IT...
THEY STILL DON'T
UNDERSTAND WHAT
WE'RE UP AGAINST.

HAS ANYTHING
HAPPENED AT THE
GATE?

NO. IT LOOKS LIKE
IT'S EMPTY, JUST LIKE
ALL THE OTHER GATES.

THINGS ARE
QUIET HERE
SO FAR.

PHEW. THANK
GOODNESS.

HUH?
HOLD ON...

SOMETHING JUST
CAME OUT OF THE
GATE!

IS THAT... A HUMAN?

A HUMAN JUST
CAME OUT OF
THE GATE!

A... HUMAN?

ADAM!
RUN AWAY!!

GET IN A CAR!
DO WHATEVER IT TAKES
TO GET OUT OF THERE
AS FAST AS YOU CAN!



THE HUNTERS...



**THE TOP-LEVEL
HUNTERS WHO WERE
STANDING AT THE
FRONT HAVE JUST
TURNED INTO ASHES!**


**ADAM! YOU
STILL HAVE
TIME TO RUN
AWAY!!**

**GET OUT OF
THERE, NOW!**

**TH, THERE ARE
COUNTLESS DRAGONS
AND OTHER BEASTS
DESCENDING FROM
THE SKY!**

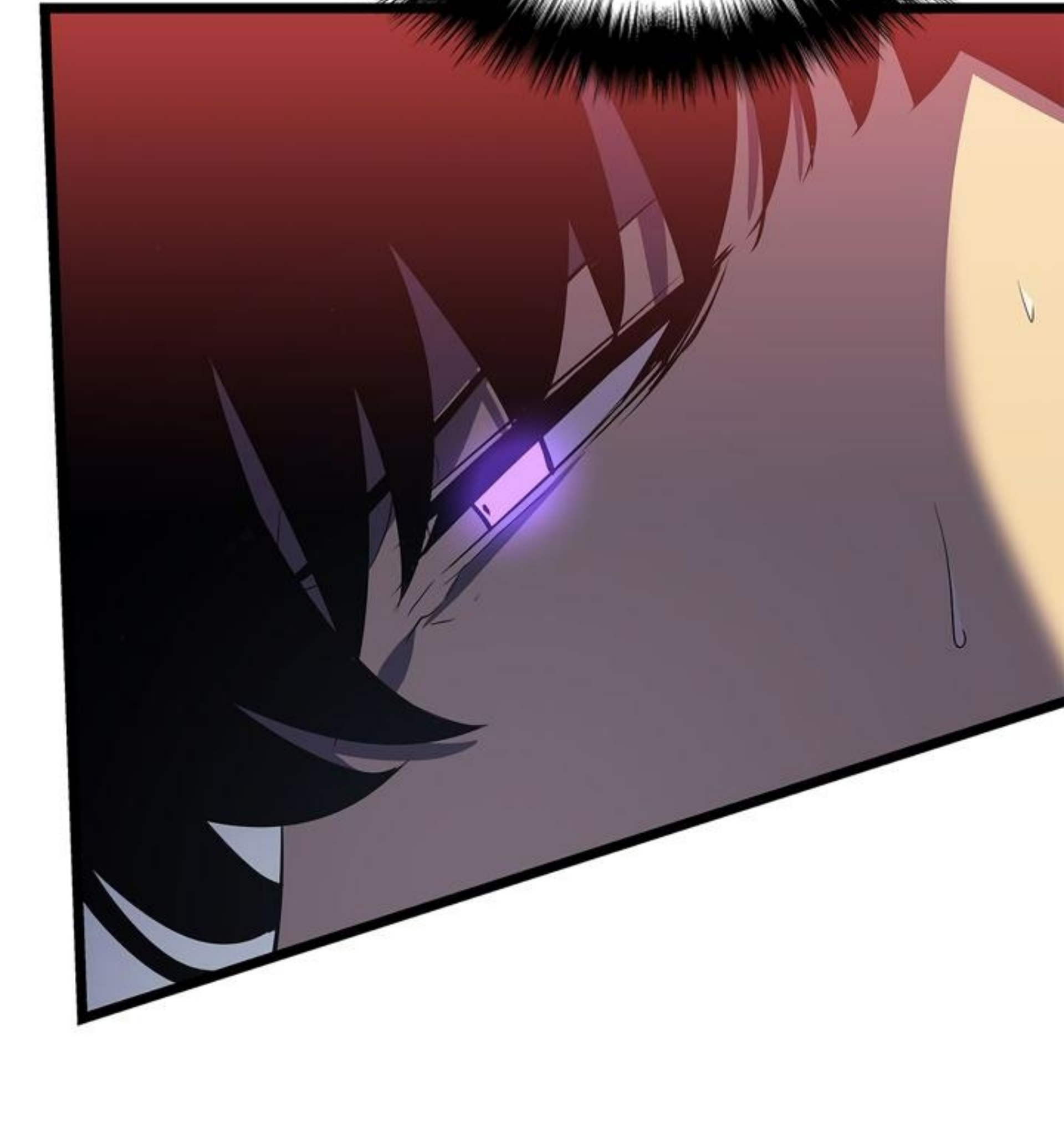
A man with brown hair, wearing a dark suit, is shown in profile, shouting into a white mobile phone. He is surrounded by a dark, smoky cloud with orange sparks or embers floating around him. In the background, several other people are seen running away in a panic. The background features a building with multiple windows, some of which are glowing with a warm light.

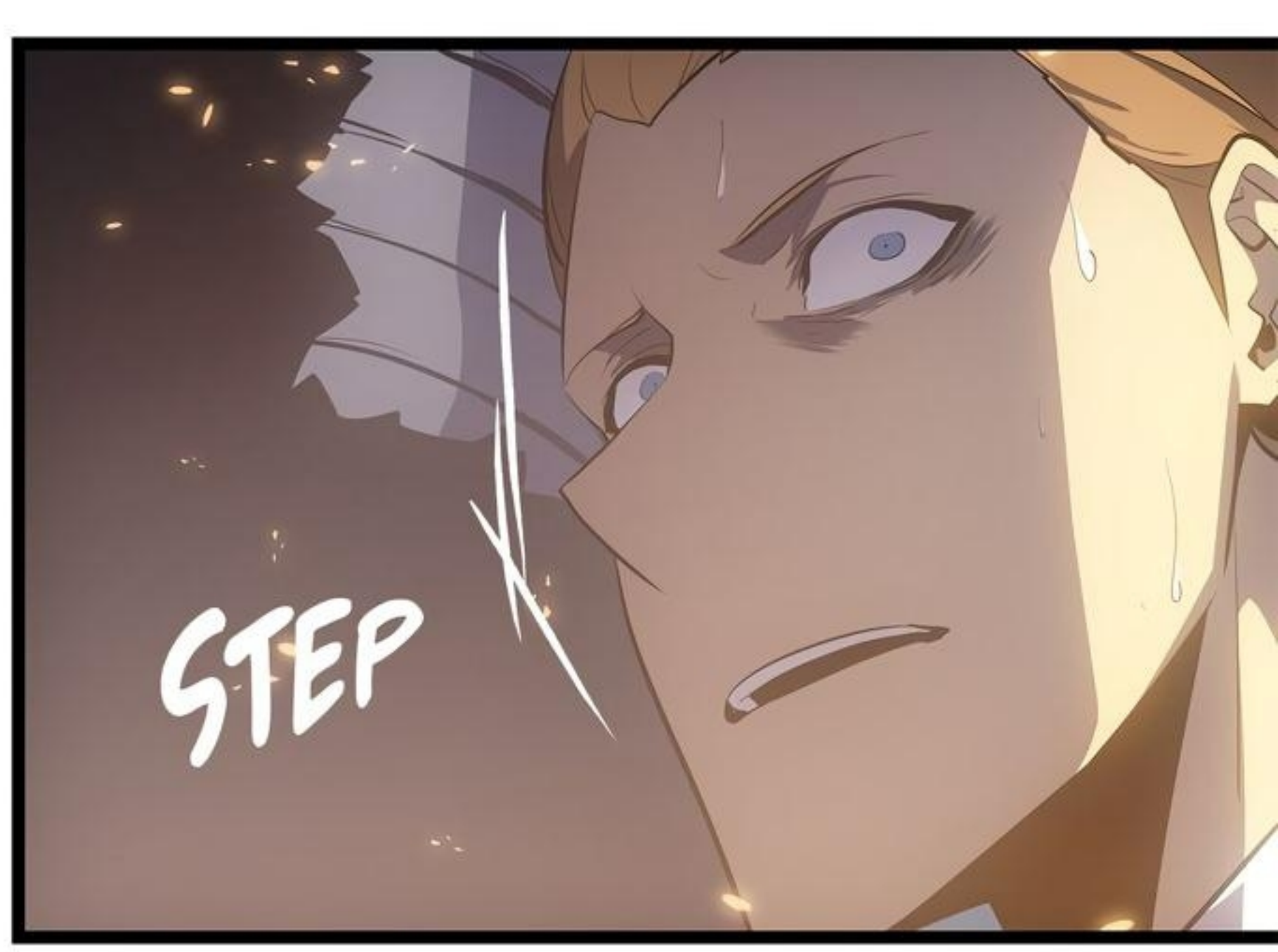
**ALL SORTS OF
BEASTS ARE
POURING OUT OF
THE GATE. HOW IS
THIS POSSIBLE...?!**

A large, circular graphic with a thick, black, spiky border, resembling a sunburst or a shockwave. Inside the circle, there are two lines of text.

**THE ONLY THING
I CAN DO NOW...
IS SAVE ADAM.**

**IF I CAN JUST
CONTROL THE
SHADOW I PLANTED
ON HIM...!**

A close-up view of a dark, shadowy, crystalline structure. It has sharp, angular edges and a glowing purple light emanating from a central point. The background is a mix of dark red and grey tones.



WHERE DO YOU
THINK YOU'RE GOING,
SHADOW?



MR. SUNG,
I...



To Be Continued...

Solo Leveling